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Shattered Dreams

Photo essay by Christina Ianni . . . page 4

LESBIANS IN COLORADO

MARCH 1994 ▼ VOLUME 3 ▼ NUMBER 6

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Letters

Letters may be edited for length

Send letters to: LIC
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MCC Is Doing Its Part

I am responding to a question posed by Kathy Deitsch in the December edition of **LIC.** The question raised was "Why hasn't the spiritual community taken a seat at the table?" The "table" refers to a hypothetical meeting of gay and lesbian activists, who have come together to share and work on commonalities. I posed this question, informally, to several leaders at Metropolitan Community Church of the Rockies (MCC), and received a variety of answers. Thinking is not tightly controlled at MCC, so let me briefly outline some of the opinions, beginning with my own.

The leadership of MCC have their hands full developing new spiritual programs, and maintaining property and services presently in place. I believe it would detract from our stated mission to attempt to provide political leadership as well. Any organization is made up of individuals, and how well that group functions will be determined by the spiritual health and emotional stability of those individuals. By providing programs which offer emotional support and spiritual growth to individuals, MCC is doing its part. New service and program development is usually sparked by requests and ideas that come from the congregation, and of course, is eventually paid for by donations from the community.

It seems to me that very little is known about what MCC is doing for this community. The responsibility for this lack of knowledge is in large part due to the various publications whose purpose is to disseminate information. Many times, information I have sent is not published, or is cut to an ineffective, simple listing of dates and times. I can only guess at the reasons for this, but I am suggesting than many publications could serve the community better by more comprehensive coverage of different aspects of the community.

When I asked the Youth and Education Director, Kirsten Kennedy, about this issue, she responded that she believes that many in leadership positions would be willing to get involved if there really *were* a "table" of lesbian/gay leadership. If there actually were an organization that represented the entire community, then sending a representative to a meeting would be feasible. But no one has the time or money to go to many different tables, nor to do the planning and formative work needed to organize an umbrella group.

The Rev. Jeannie Teague is a long-time member of MCC, who will be teaching a series of classes beginning April 6th entitled, "Women in the Bible." She said that the church should have been more involved with Amendment 2. She said many in the community, who looked to the church for leadership, were disappointed that none developed. MCC churches in cities like Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, San Francisco and Dallas are much more politically active. However, she said it's probable that the congregation reflects an attitude that is indicative of the larger community. Dallas, Los Angeles, etc. are cities that historically have had a politically involved, active, in-your-face style of interactive community. Denver, on the other hand, tends to display more isolationist attitudes.

Debra Mintener, MCC Administrator, Denver

Lesbian Needs Help In Custody Battle

I want to alert community members to a situation impacting a member of our "family." PJ opened a store in Denver, Bound by Design, during the beginning moments of Amendment 2. Her hopes and dreams then and now are to promote awareness and understanding of all lifestyles. Her main focus is to promote a drug- and alcohol-free, creative way of living. PJ herself has 13 years clean, and maintains a strong, single-mother-headed "family values" home. PJ focuses the energy of Bound by Design on her objective of building a better future for all people, and providing ongoing and effective services to our community.

PJ's ex-husband of six years became so infuriated by her openness that in July 1993 he launched an incredibly brutal custody battle. The battle is being fueled by the anti-gay climate and so-called "family values" in Colorado Springs, where the court case is being conducted.

Although PJ has continually fought for her own and her children's rights, since July she has been assaulted twice, and she now is being described by Colorado Springs psychologists as an "endangerment" to her children because she is not "prosocial" and lives an "alternative lifestyle." This is the case simply because she lives as an open, independent lesbian mother focused on providing a loving and supportive environment for her children.

PJ has been able to fight the battle until now, but her legal fees have surpassed $30,000. She has now reached a point where emotionally and financially she is in danger of being beaten by the system. Without the support of the community, a precedent-setting case, which will affect all of us, may be forfeited due to lack of funds. Funds are being collected to assist PJ in meeting the current long-term financial demands of this case. **$5,000 in emergency funds are needed by March 20, just to keep this case open.** Send checks payable to **Boysen Defense**, to my attention, at the GLBCSCC; P.O. Drawer 18-E; Denver, CO 80218-0140. Please help PJ win this fight!

Kat Morgan, Executive Director, Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Community Services Center of Colorado (formerly Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Colorado (GLCCC))

A Piece Of Marriage

I am a 19-year-old lesbian who had dreams of marriage, but was unable to fulfill my dreams because of the law that two people of the same sex cannot be legally married in Colorado. I have found a loophole in the law. I changed my last name on February 14, 1994, to my lover's surname. And it was legal. We may not legally be married, but by going to the court and asking for a name change, at least I carry her last name. They asked why I wanted to change my name, and I simply replied that we couldn't be married. They said that as long as you're not running away from obligations, it was fine. All it takes is a little time and money and it works. It cost us $42.50 for the name change and $10.00 for the required publication in the local paper. Everyone needs to know about it.

Mitzy L. Landrith, Arvada

Roseanne Takes On The Patriarchy

Steve Weiswasser, senior vice president and general counsel of ABC, tried to censor a *Roseanne* episode because two women are shown kissing in a gay bar. His reason was that the scene "is not the lifestyle that most people lead."

Since when has "mainstream lifestyle" become an excuse to censor TV programming? Is it not a code term for patriarchal lifestyle? Heterosexual lifestyle? Frankly, TV programming never has portrayed mainstream life, but TV Land's unreality has not deterred the networks from airing it. I have yet to look out my living room window and see any violence whatsoever, or the now-casual, ho-hum degradation of females which is routinely depicted on TV.

How about some honesty, ABC? What is the *real* issue here? I think it's BREAKING SILENCE. Horrors! Where will it lead? Perhaps to honesty and open communication? Does the scene Weiswasser tried to censor depict hatred? Random slaughter? Any of TV evening news' garish visual coverage of the effects of patriarchal power? No. By the way, Mr. Weiswasser, the air waves your employer uses and makes millions of dollars from, belong to *all* the people. You are a poor steward when you censor a reality that millions of Americans experience and are entitled to see portrayed.

The Patriarchal Age is ending. In part that means more and more alternatives to their version of reality are available through cable and upcoming technology. Finally an honest portrayal of bisexual and lesbian lifestyles will be available. Emerging generations of lesbians and bisexuals will learn who they are directly, freshly from their own experience, rather than through the distorted heterosexist stereotype. And just imagine what some balance and a level playing field will bring to TV ads —Coors beer ads fixated on men's crotches the same way ads now fixate on women's breasts and rear ends.

Finally, I toast you, Roseanne Arnold, for again breaking silence, for confronting the patriarchal structure, for forcing some of its members out from under their rocks and exposing for all to see and confront, their elitist attitudes and practices. An updated version of "The pen is mightier than the sword" might be "Comedians can be deft crap detectors."

Marge Johnson, Golden

LESBIANS IN COLORADO

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news news NEWS NEWS

76 (queer) trombones

The Mile High Freedom Band (MHFB) will celebrate its 10th anniversary with a concert at 7:30 p.m. on April 9th at the Temple Events Center in Denver. Tickets are available at The Book Garden, Category 6 and Charlies, or by calling 303-777-7314. Proceeds will help send the band to the Gay Games in New York this summer. MHFB also will host the Lesbian and Gay Bands of America National Spring Conference on April 8-10.

glbcscc *not* glccc

The board of directors, membership and staff of the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Colorado (GLCCC) voted to change the organization's name to the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Community Services Center of Colorado (GLBCSCC). Got that? The inclusion of bisexuals "reflects the reality of the programs we offer and the people we serve," said executive director Kat Morgan. Adding the word "services" indicates the Center's commitment to service-oriented, community-based programs, such as the Anti-Violence Project and the Youth Services Program.

pridefest stays with glbcscc

In case you read in *Preferred Stock* that PrideFest was leaving the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Community Services Center—not true. Kent Owens, the Center's director of development, and John Bloechi, vice president of the Center's board, will take over from Tom Ervin as PrideFest co-coordinators. (What happened to gender parity?) Call the PrideLine, 303-281-8346, to volunteer. The next PrideFest meeting is March 28, 7:00 p.m., at the Center, 1245 E. Colfax, Suite 125. Meetings are every other Monday. PrideFest takes place July 10.

2nd chance for pot-bellied pigs

Two lesbians working for animal rights have founded the Clemenswine Memorial Pot-Bellied Pig Sanctuary in Sedalia, Colorado. Ronda Slogar and Sylvia Francisco report that following the increased popularity of pot-bellied pigs, abuse and abandonment of the animals are growing problems. The sanctuary, which has rescued sixty pigs so far, also is looking for members to assist with fundraising. Contact them at 5252 Dakan Road; Sedalia, Colorado 80135, or call 303-681-3618.

the new yorker goes dyke

The New Yorker magazine, well known for its clever and topical cartoons, recently published its first lesbian comic. In the Feb. 28 issue, a stern woman says to a little boy, "You just wait until your other mother gets home, young man!"

florida blocks anti-gay measure

In a major defeat for the national wave of anti-gay initiatives, the Florida Supreme Court ruled on March 3 that an anti-gay, anti-democratic measure violated state law and could not be included on Florida's November 1994 ballot. "The Florida Supreme Court's ruling is a critical national precedent. It makes clear that civil rights are not special rights—and it deals a powerful blow to the national radical right," said Suzanne B. Goldberg, the Lambda Legal Defense staff attorney who argued the case before the high court.

don't rush to buy oj

In response to the Florida Citrus Commission's decision to hire anti-gay, anti-feminist Rush Limbaugh as its sponsor, gay-rights group Gay and Lesbian Americans have called for a boycott of Florida-grown orange juice. Sixty gay bars across the country have already agreed to participate in the one-week boycott, which begins March 12. To voice your opposition, contact Daniel Santangelo; Executive Director; Florida Department of Citrus; P.O. Box 148; Lakeland, Florida 33802-0148; phone: 813-499-2500; fax: 813-499-2374.

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— Dana D.

sister spirit still under siege

Camp Sister Spirit in Ovett, Mississippi, has faced mass public meetings, a bid to buy out the lesbian owners, an impending lawsuit expected to brand the camp a public nuisance, as well as bomb threats, crank calls, and explosions. Last month, Attorney General Janet Reno dispatched federal civil rights mediators to Mississippi—the first-ever federal involvement in charges of lesbian harassment. After the officials left, Brenda Henson, one of the camp's caretakers, reported hearing automatic weapons and voices in the woods. Henson said, "We've even been accused of dancing naked around the fire. It's been too damned cold to do that . . . We are not a lesbian organization. We are lesbians who are human rights activists. We want to set up an education center with courses on racism, anti-Semitism and jobs for women. Feminists teaching feminism is more scary to the good old boys than lesbianism." When asked if she could be driven off the hilltop property, Henson replied, "In a hearse."—*Boston Globe*

anti-gay petitions multiply

Conservatives in Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, Oregon and Washington are circulating anti-gay rights petitions, hoping for enough signatures to qualify the measures for fall elections. And despite the failure of Colorado's Amendment 2 in the courts, anti-gay groups in Arizona, Michigan and Missouri have borrowed Amendment 2's language almost word-for-word.

gay pro-lifers join march

Twelve members of the Pro-Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians (PLAGAL)—one woman and eleven men—joined other Pro-Lifers in a march commemorating the 20th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade. The group believes the messages of the gay civil rights and pro-life movement are the same: All human life deserves protection and respect simply because it is human. PLAGAL can be reached at P.O. Box 33292; Washington, D.C. 20033 (202-223-6697).

american express signs on

American Express Company's "Cheques for Two" campaign will run new ads in *Out* and *10 Percent* magazines featuring examples of traveler's checks with the signatures of two men and two women. You can let American Express know you support these ads by calling 1-800-THE CARD.

sesame street, next stop

The career of musician Me'Shell NdegeOcello, a 25-year-old gay, black, single mother, is taking off. (Her name is pronounced Me-shell Nuh-day-gay-O-chel-lo and is Swahili for "free like a bird.") Her debut album, *Plantation Lullabies*, combines funk, jazz, hip-hop and poetry, which she terms "broken-hearted revolutionary love songs." In explaining the title of the album (produced by Madonna's Maverick label), NdegeOcello says, "A plantation can be your job, your marriage, anyplace where you don't feel free." A *Rolling Stone* critics' poll called NdegeOcello "the brightest hope for 1994." She's already working on her next release, but of her long-term aspirations she says, "What I really want is to be on *Sesame Street*. That's when I'll know I've really made it."—*Reuter/Variety*

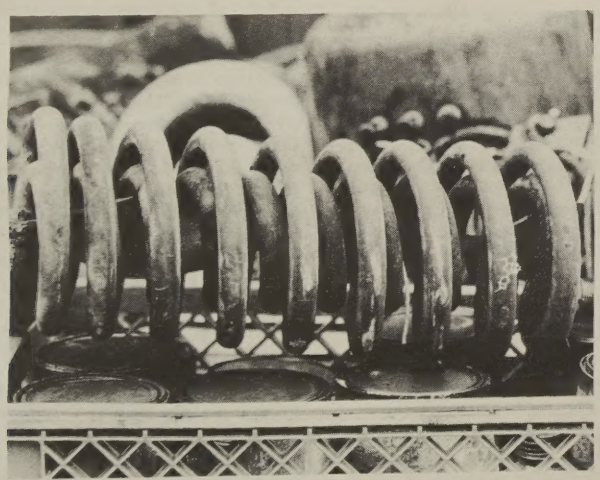
go fish makes a splash; *nightwood* still on

Hot from the Sundance and Berlin film festivals, Rose Troche's low-budget lesbian comedy *Go Fish* has emerged as one of the top-grossing pictures in Berlin. Samuel Goldwyn has picked up worldwide distribution rights, indicating the burgeoning interest in lesbian and gay films. Surprisingly strong video rental sales for *Claire of the Moon* prompted the mega-deal. Look for *Go Fish* in a Denver theater this summer. Meanwhile, plans move ahead for a movie version of Katherine V. Forrest's mystery, *Murder at the Nightwood Bar*. Negotiations continue with Mary-Louise Parker and Tom Arnold to star in the story of two L.A. detectives who delve into the lesbian underground to solve a murder.

SHATTERED DREAMS

healing the core

The 2C Gallery inside the Pirate Gallery at 3659 Navajo Street in Denver hosts a unique exhibit of hand-tinted and black-and-white photographs depicting a creative journey and the healing of the self. This exhibit documents and creatively interprets various aspects of childhood abuse, sexual abuse, second-generation war trauma, fragmented sexuality and shattered dreams. Also included are photos which show not only the artist's vision, but also her humor and affirmation of life.



P.S. Check out the photo of Dyke, Colorado. It really exists.

Opening: March 25, 7:00-10:00 p.m.
Hours: March 26-27 and April 2-3: Noon-5:00 p.m.
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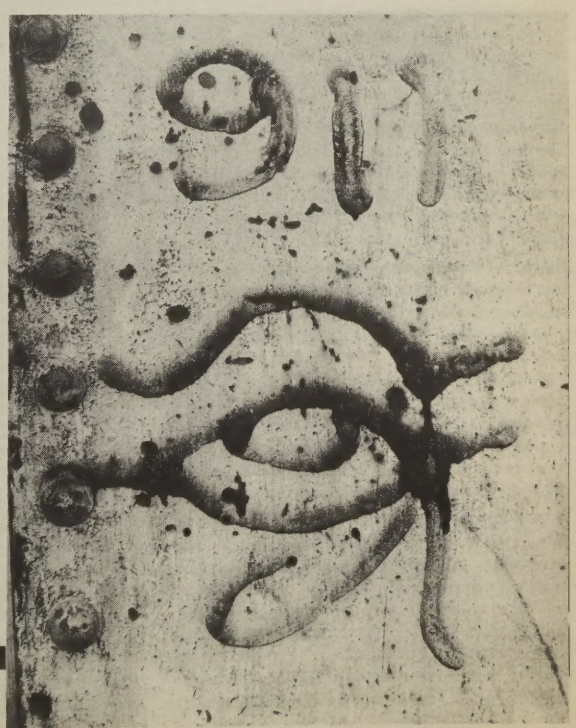

Photographs by Christina Ianni

Top left: "Wings of Desire"; top right: "Shattered Dreams"; bottom left: "Healing the Core"; bottom right: "Trauma Codes."

Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation
GLAAD DENVER

Media Monitor: March 1994

COMPILED BY JOHN WILKENS

kiss and tell

ABC finally aired the lesbian kiss episode of *Roseanne* (3/1/94) after making much ado about nothing. The big event lasted about five seconds, yet the show was proceeded by a "viewer discretion warning." Why is it that when lesbians do the things heterosexuals do, it's considered a "mature sexual theme"? Roseanne was shocked at the kiss, but did she have to wipe her mouth in disgust? The rest of the show had Roseanne and crew tepidly examining their homophobia, but did it add anything to our understanding of the gap between straight and queer? Let's hope there are some follow-up episodes.

This will probably be the highest rated Roseanne episode to date, but the exaggerated attention only underscores the public paranoia about showing the simplest forms of lesbian (and gay) affection.

Beat the fundamentalists to the mailbox by contacting **Ted Harbert, President, ABC Entertainment, at (310) 557-6518, FAX: (310) 557-7160** to let him know that the Republic survived and is craving more.

tall tales

The *Tales of the City* mini-series garnered the highest national viewership ever for PBS' American Playhouse. Sources at Denver's KRMA (Channel 6) and KBDI (Channel 12) report that viewer response was overwhelmingly positive. Viewers also chastised Channel 6 for censoring the program and praised Channel 12 for airing the uncensored show during prime time.

Tales was indeed a breakthrough for honest gay portrayals, but a closer examination of the sexual pecking order reveals some failings: The heterosexual characters romantically romped with carefree abandon. The gay men chastely kissed and cruised. The lesbians were all talk and did not embrace or kiss. *Tales II* is now in pre-production. Let PBS know that you are ready to see romance and affection between characters of *every* sexual orientation. **Contact PBS toll-free at (800) 356-2626.**

onward christian censors

WEYS-TV in Key West, Florida, was all set to be the first commercial outlet to air *Network Q*, the national videotape-only lesbian and gay news magazine. Then the show was abruptly canceled and all lesbian and gay programming was pulled from the air. The reason? Trinity Broadcasting, a Dallas-based Christian production company that purchases a sizeable chunk of airtime on WEYS and its seven affiliates, threatened to cancel its contract unless the queer programming was dumped. WEYS is owned by Denver businessman David Drucker.

David Solomon, the station's manager, was fired after protesting that lesbians and gays make up roughly 60% of WEYS viewers and that canceling the programming was the wrong thing to do. "Fundamentalists understand the power of TV," according to *Network Q* producer David Surber. "Preventing real access to television is one of the best ways to ensure that our community remains a fragmented political force."

TV and radio stations are licensed to serve the public interest. Allowing other producers to censor station content is not in the public interest. **Contact David Drucker at WEYS-TV, Channel 22, 527 Southard Street, Key West, FL, 33040, Denver: (303) 526-1039, Key West: (305) 296-4969, FAX: (305) 296-1669** and urge him to "do the right thing" by supporting freedom of speech.

Continued on page 9

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Life—and how you finance it—is something that happens to you while you're making other plans.
John Lennon—revised

Do lesbians adhere to this philosophy with more zeal than most groups? Perhaps. According to Nancy Congdon, a financial planner with IDS Financial Services and an occasional instructor for Lavender U's money management classes, many lesbians take a laissez-faire approach to their financial future. What happens, *happens.*

But is this disinterest the result of old messages: Women do relationships, men do money? Or free-spirited deviation: Dreamers dare, planners don't? Congdon is at a loss to say. She simply has noticed that many of her lesbian clients seem ill-at-ease about money, as if finances embody a sordid materialism that might harm one's character. Most troubling, she notes that clients with abundant incomes or assets express a degree of shame. "I don't want it to get around," they say in hushed tones after a consultation. How curious. Is this yet another closet, only this one is full of old check stubs and bank statements? Isn't this the same lesbian subculture that loves to speculate about pie-in-the-sky wealth—a Lotto jackpot, a sudden windfall? "If I had a million dollars..." the game begins—and we all know how to play. Eyes widen as the new "millionaire" spends her sudden treasure in fabulous detail and uncensored abandon.

Meanwhile, her nouveau riche, but innocent, psyche never suspects that she's indulging in a little "financial planning"—albeit, short-lived. What are some of her short- and medium-term goals? A house, a car, other durable goods make the wish list. An Olivia cruise, a trip to Costa Rica, Australia, Brazil, somewhere, anywhere, she's never been before. And then she really starts dreaming. A career change. And other immaterial changes—freedom, safety, adventure. Before very long the new millionaire starts giving away wealth left and right, to friends, charities, extended family—and inside of six months she's broke. But happy, right? And shameless.

But shame is only one of the driving forces in our would-be millionaire's profligate bash. Financial inexperience, a sense of social fair play, and even a few nagging doubts about investing in the future, may influence her decision to blow the wad. I discovered what it was like to lose one's faith in the future in a single afternoon. That was the day a Ford pickup, driven by a complete stranger, rudely and abruptly introduced itself into my life. Several years later, when the insurance settlement windfall came my way, I never even thought about investing it. I played millionaire, minus four or five zeros. The capital went quickly, spent on trips, friends, luxuries, making up for a long bout with disability.

And I know I'm not the only one whose youthful idealism went bankrupt long ago. Financial/planning is problematic from both sides of the equation. Spending money as fast as you make it takes no faith, no saving ethic; like members of a defunct religion, many of us are agnostic about the "afterlife" to follow the here-and-now of hard, ready cash.

To be sure, lesbians are a spontaneously self-defining lot. And our lack of role models may feed this tendency to neglect the future. When I came out, the first "retirement age" lesbian I ever expected to meet was myself when I turned 65. Lydia Green, an investment advocate expert, thinks women need to make up for this lack of role models. She's noticed that her female clients sometimes hesitate to take financial control of their future, as if they were waiting for someone else to do it for them. But Green cautions that this naïveté drastically limits one's options. "You've got to take the first step," she says. "Those who don't plan for tomorrow, let others define their own destiny."

Many of us are agnostic about the "afterlife" to follow the here-and-now of hard, ready cash.

Lydia Green's passion for the subject betrays the calculating demeanor one might expect from a woman who makes her money fattening financial portfolios. But Green echoes the sentiments of other female financial planners, who sometimes sound like a cross between exasperated coaches, break-through-the-glass-ceiling feminists, and Ayn Rand capitalists.

Green concedes that women sometimes are put-off by competing in a male-dominated system, but then her exasperation returns. If women choose to rebel against old gender role models, "the system," and memories of parents arguing about money, they need to invent new roles. Says "coach" Green, "If we believe we can do relationships better, then we should believe we can do money better."

"If we believe we can do relationships better, then we should believe we can do money better."

So, suppose you're newly convinced, or finally ready, to invest all that cash you've squirreled away in your mattress—or you're just willing to read on. What next? Nancy Congdon suggests learning the basics: take a class, talk things over with a competent financial planner, preferably one who knows how to do lesbian-specific planning, and start thinking about money creatively.

And you don't necessarily need to abandon your Mother Teresa Vow of Poverty, either. Perhaps charity is best practiced by those who are in a position to give. Live simply so that others may simply live? Sure, but live grandly, generously, and see what happens.

Kathi Spurr, a registered investment advisor, specializes in the "socially responsible" investment market, which allow buyers to shop with their conscience, purchasing stocks, bonds, and even insurance from companies with a positive track record on specific social issues. According to Spurr, many lesbians are attracted to these markets because of strong political convictions and an established habit of pairing money with grassroots clout.

Using conscience and convictions, clients can invest in companies with pro-active stances on such issues as domestic partnership benefits, minority hiring, toxic waste, timber harvesting, biochemical engineering . . . you name it. Indeed, for those of us who are already in the habit of voting with our pocketbooks, product-by-product, it may be time to consider upping the ante. Why not invest in companies such as Apple Computer, Lotus, or HBO, for example, and attach a letter addressed to the CEO and public relations department, congratulating them for offering domestic partnership benefits to their employees?

Last October, Spurr reports, a similar tactic was used to pressure Crackerbarrel, a company which fired seven alleged homosexual employees. Only in this case, the stock holders said, you sold us short, so now let us return the favor.

But socially responsible investing serves as a philosophic tool that one may or may not use while personalizing the standard components in a comprehensive financial plan. I'll call the generic package the ABC's of good financial planning to simplify this introductory primer: A=Accumulating Wealth, B=Backing It Up, and C=Cashing In Along the Way.

Accumulating Wealth includes both reviewing one's financial position (assets, liabilities, income, expenses, etc.) to arrive at a budget, and then investing a percentage of one's discretionary income in short, medium, and long-term plans. In other words, figure out what kind of money you have now, and what kind of future goals you can budget for and invest in to buy later. Congdon observes that clients with modest to meager incomes often reap the most immediate dividends, feeling relatively wealthy—because they're less broke.

Backing It Up involves protection and estate planning to secure one's investments while living, and to disburse one's assets afterwards. These are particularly sensitive areas for lesbians, since most states automatically transfer the deceased's assets to the nearest of kin; such an arrangement ignores same-sex partners or extended family, unless these parties are named as beneficiaries. The state couldn't care less if cousin Penelope was your living nightmare—without a will, she'll get it all when you're gone. Property, casualty, disability and other insurance planning also protect investors from the unexpected.

Cashing In Along the Way addresses tax and retirement planning. OK, for a moment, hold off those irrational fears that linger in the air after anyone says the word "retirement": Leisure World and Bermuda shorts aren't compulsory. But thinking ahead ought to be, according to the planners. And whether you shelter some of your income in non-taxable retirement investments, or simply get help preparing tax returns to maximize deductions at the end of every year, these two areas require lesbian-specific planning.

Unlike a heterosexual spouse, a lesbian partner can't count on collecting from a partner's pension or social security benefits if the partner dies—and besides, with the constant cuts to social security, no one's going to make much of an omelette out of that nest egg.

With the constant cuts to social security, no one's going to make much of an omelette out of that nest egg.

Now for the good news. We actually come out ahead when it comes to taxes, says Congdon. In a system that fails to acknowledge us as legally married couples, lesbians can play the angles. For example, splitting a mortgage deduction 50/50 is fine, and that's what most lesbian couples do, but they could do better. If the mortgage appears in only one name—or if all the checks are written by the first name on the mortgage—partner A "owns" the house and takes the full mortgage deduction; partner, or rather "roommate," B takes the standard personal deduction at the end of the year. This strategy significantly

increases the deductions allowed for your household. For example, if the full mortgage deduction were $12,000, a couple's net deduction would be $18,050 ($12,000 + $6,050 (for the standard personal deduction). As for the one-time capital gains exclusion on the sale of a residence, which a married couple can take only once in a lifetime, an "unsanctioned" couple can do better—taking the "one-time" deduction twice—once apiece. But many lesbian couples would never dream of playing the angles, because they don't know they exist.

Many lesbian couples would never dream of playing the angles, because they don't know they exist.

To be honest, tax breaks are one of the many discoveries—and personal dilemmas—I've stumbled across while researching this article. "What does the phrase 'lesbian financial planning' mean to you?" I've asked over and over in my quest. An oxymoron, said some; an idea whose time has come, said others. But, I wonder. First Lesbian Chic, now Lesbian Swank? Followed by Lesbian Chagrin, when a whole sub-class of women feels humiliated living "in love and squalor," but disenfranchised from the mainstream, twice removed? I should hope not. Shame, sin, inexperience, skepticism, planners versus dreamers, and leftist leanings—who would have thought that such a calm and dignified concept as financial planning could lead to such a jungle? Apparently a lot of us. And clearly, before some of us can take that first step on unfamiliar ground that Lydia Green talked about, we need to learn how to use a machete.

But that's not to imply that others aren't off and running. Jan Temple, a professional woman in her mid-thirties, says she learned the saving ethic the hard way. Her parents retired on a fixed income several years ago, and she sees them just "getting by," but unable to fulfill their dreams. In response, Jan and her lover of ten years place their financial emphasis on retirement planning, looking forward to good things to come, growing old together. But Jan has seen enough to know that an urgent Now can preempt the Future. "We're planning for tomorrow but living for today," she confides.

Which breaks ground for one compromise. Perhaps a planner is really a dreamer, who prefers to keep a ledger close to her heart—to check progress, debit fear, and define destiny as best as she can figure it.

Nancy Congdon and Kathi Spurr are both Denver-area Financial Planners who specialize in lesbian-specific planning. Congdon is with IDS Financial Services and Spurr runs Social Investment Company. Lydia Green is a pseudonym for a financial expert who cares deeply about women and how they plan for their financial future. LIC

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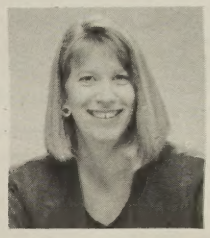

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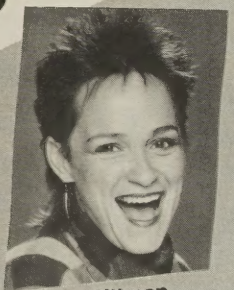
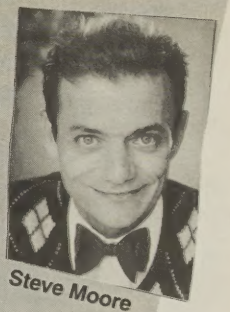


Marilyn Pittman



Steve Moore

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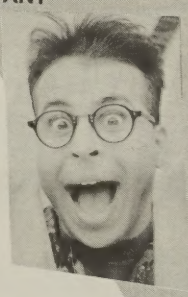
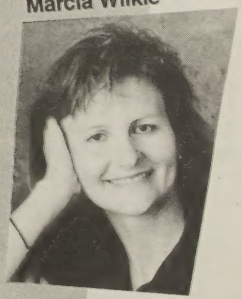


Marcia Wilkie



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Lesbian City: Lamenting Lovers' Lottery

JAMI POWELL

This has been a very dreary and uneventful month here in Lesbian City, in the State of Mind. Days dragged by until word got out . . . time for the Lamenting Lovers' Lottery. Helen Hoots and Libbi Lime are breaking up. AGAIN!

Since some time in early 1984, Helen and Libbi have been breaking up and making up. No one remembers the date of that first time. But everyone remembers the drama.

You KNOW how it goes!

The first time, Helen was heartbroken. Friends took her in, stayed with her through that first night, helping her survive the pain. They created and recreated the laundry list of complaints against Libbi — "never around when you need her"; "can't talk about her emotions"; "too self-conscious to hold hands in public"; and on and on! The Helen Supporters couldn't say enough bad things about Libbi.

Libbi was experiencing her own trauma. Her friends and supporters came over to the house, assured her she had done the right thing to get out of such a dysfunctional relationship. Helen "is no good for you," they said. "She never gave you enough space."

Helen's and Libbi's lamenting of the breakup became so public that the entire city took up sides. Everyone had an opinion of who was right, who was wrong. Each Lesbian in the city knew what should be done about it. No one held back. Not those who were in 20-year relationships. Not those who had never stayed involved more than a month at a time.

Libbi Supporters would meet and talk for hours. Helen Supporters stopped talking to Libbi Supporters. This went on for 16 tense days. Some feared the hostilities might turn violent.

Then, on the evening of the 17th day, Helen and Libbi made up and moved back in together. The population of the city was stunned. The best supporting efforts had failed!

A sheepish silence followed the reconciliation.

Some months later, when Helen and Libbi broke up for a second time, Lesbian City was ready to do battle again. "This time for sure." Supporters gathered at their respective Coffee Houses. Heated debates filled the streets. Righteousness abounded in the hearts of them all.

The situation did not have time to get out of hand, however. Helen and Libbi made up nine days after the breakup. Shocked Supporters turned silent and sullen.

That's why, when the couple broke up 10 months later, it was hard for either woman to find a Lesbian willing to sit up all night to witness the tearful agony. As a matter of fact, neither woman found much of a listening ear to lambaste the wrong-doings of the other. It was to no one's surprise when the two Lesbians made up again. This time after four days.

And so it has gone ever since. Every few months, sometimes as long as a year, Helen and Libbi break up, then get back together again. The separations have lasted from 4 to 143 days. Everyone knows this because in 1987 all the Spurned Supporters got together and started the Lamenting Lovers' Lottery. The object is to guess how many days the women will stay separated. For ten dollars, a Supporter gets a number. If it turns out to be the number of days until the Make Up, that Lesbian wins the cash.

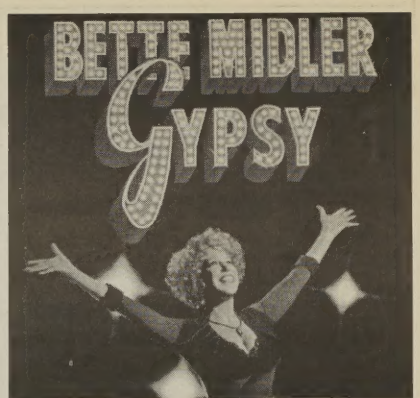
As the days of this month wane, the lottery numbers are almost gone. Already we are on day 11 with no sign of a Make Up. The city is buzzing with conversation and speculation. The Lamenting Lovers' Lottery has become so popular that the local radio station is airing daily reports. Evidently that's how both Helen and Libbi found out about the Lottery.

Helen bought in on #26 and Libbi bought in on #83. Reliable sources say they're going to mediation to decide on which of the two days to Make Up and how they will divide the cash! LIC

Dignity/Denver cordially invites the gay & lesbian community, your family and friends to join us as we celebrate

Easter Sunday Mass
Sunday, April 3, 1994 – 5:00 p.m.
Capitol Heights Presbyterian Church
1100 Fillmore St., Denver

dignity/denver



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GLAAD: Continued from page 5

fairness fight

Fundamentalist televangelists are anxious about the possible return of broadcasting's "Fairness Doctrine." Congress is considering reinstating the requirement (abandoned during the Reagan years) that broadcasters provide balanced coverage of "controversial" public issues. Radical fundamentalists such as Pat Robertson are concerned that whenever they air hateful programs (such as *The Gay Agenda*) or denounce equal rights for lesbians and gays, they might be required to present a gay rebuttal.

Contact your representative and urge them to bring back the Fairness Doctrine. **Reps. Allard, Hefley, Schaefer, Schroeder, Skaggs, McInnis, c/o U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC, 20515, switchboard: (202) 225-3121. Senators Campbell and Brown, c/o U.S. Senate, Washington, DC, 20510, switchboard: (202) 224-3121.**

• • • • Bits and Pieces • • • •

ignorance protection act

The Rangely, Colorado, school district has pulled three sex education books from their middle-school library, including *Understanding Sexual Identity: A Book for Gay Teens*. At the same time, the Parent and Teacher's Association announced its concern about the high rate of suicide among gay and lesbian teenagers. The PTA wants to include information about homosexuality in sex education courses.

Whether they succeed or not will be a moot point if a bill sponsored by Rep. Drew Clark (R-Boulder) and Sen. MaryAnne Tebedo (R-El Paso) passes in the Colorado legislature. HB 1206 will exempt students from mandatory sex education classes upon the written request of a parent.

"dominance-related problems"

"Rednecks Can't Dance . . .," a Friday Magazine feature in the *Denver Post* (2/25/94) contained the subhead "'Dominance-related Problems' Never Kick Up in Line Dancing" and vaguely hinted at the deeper issue of rigid gender-role/sex stereotyping in country dancing. It probably never dawned on reporter Butch Hause to examine same-sex country dancing as an example of gender-less role versatility.

One of the gifts lesbians and gays have to offer straight society is a better understanding of their gender-role limitations. Reporters with inquiring minds realize this and use it to enrich their reporting.

armchair activism

When you see or hear positive, negative, or missing coverage of lesbian, bisexual, and gay issues, alert the GLAAD/Denver media response line at (303) 331-2773. Provide as much information as possible (who, what, where, when, and contact information). We depend on you to help us monitor the variety of local radio, television, and newspaper reporting.

Don't forget to personally respond to the media. Sometimes a single well-reasoned phone call and letter explaining why a particular message or action is harmful to our community can open minds. LIC

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Calendar

Listings are free for lesbian events. Entries received by the 5th of the month will be published the 15th of the same month. Type all listings, mark as a calendar item, and mail to LIC, P.O. Box 533, Contract Station 2, Denver CO 80206

COLORADO SPRINGS

ONGOING

SUPPORT GROUPS

MABLE: Married But Lesbian Social & Support Group
Not for bisexuals. 719-471-4GAY

Count-Me-In
A Support Group for Lesbians
Every Thurs. 7:30-9 pm
632-9775 or 471-4429

LesBiGay Families
2nd Sunday of the month 10:30 am
Children welcome
Carol or Shellie 570-1599

Parents And Friends Of Lesbians & Gays
2nd Wednesday of month
6:30-7 pm social, 7-9 pm meeting
575-8658

Gay And Lesbian Adolescent Support Group
Every Wed. 6-7 pm
301 S. Union 578-3160

Gay Alcoholics Anonymous
Every Monday and Friday 8 pm
All Souls Unitarian Church
730 N. Tejon St.
AA 24-hr. hotline 634-5020

Battered Women's Center
633-3819

Coming Out—An Ongoing Process
Bimonthly meetings 531-5064
between 5 pm and 8 pm

Spouses Support Group
For heterosexual spouses of lesbians & gays through Pikes Peak GLCCC
Alan 634-2488 weekdays

Bisexual, Gay & Lesbian Alliance
At both Colo. College and Univ. of Colo.
471-4429

Lesbians & Gays Raising Children
Group now forming 471-4429

Hispanics!
New group forming for Hispanic/Latina/o lesbians & gays & their friends.
471-4429 or 635-6086

SOCIAL

Good Times Organization
Social and activities group for professional lesbians and gays
Laurie 473-6372

Bingo
Every Friday 7 pm
Every Saturday noon
1102 S. 21st St.
Hosted by Pikes Peak MCC

The Group
For educators on all levels
Monthly potluck 471-4429

For Ladies Only
Fun activities/social group for lesbians
Every other Sat. 471-4429

OTHER

Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church
Sundays 5 pm
All Souls Unitarian Church
Child Care Provided
634-3771 or 391-0110

Dignity/Southern Colorado
Mass 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month
7 pm Sacred Heart Church
21st & W. Colorado Ave.
Michael 635-5773

Helpline
Staffed 6-9 pm Mon-Fri and 3-9 pm Sat.
Calendar and message service at other hours 471-4429

Anti-Violence Project
24-hour Crisis Line 338-8899

Ground Zero
2nd Sunday of the month 6:30 pm
C.C. Worner Center 635-6086

La Guia
Hispanic Lesbian/Gay Caucus
Giame E. 635-6086

Latinas
Support & networking
689-2488

CURRENT

Lavender U. in the Springs
April 16 registration 12:30 pm
5 classes, 1-5 pm
Potluck and dance to follow
303-831-6268

Pike's Peak Gay & Lesbian Community Center Open House
Mar. 18 4-6 pm Independence Bldg.
121 E. Pike's Peak 471-4GAY

METRO DENVER/BOULDER

ONGOING

SUPPORT GROUPS

Boulder P-FLAG
Third Thursday of month
7:30 Support groups 8:30 Program
444-8164

Denver P-FLAG
1st Wednesday of month 7 pm
South Presbyterian Church 1700 S. Grant partially wheelchair accessible
Denver 333-0286

The Teen Group
Support group for teens ages 12-19 who have lesbian or gay parents
Denver 831-6268

24-Hour Hotline For Victims Of Hate Crimes Or Domestic Violence
303-324-4297 (324-GAYS)
Call 831-6268 to volunteer (GLCCC)

Asian Gays And Lesbians
2nd Sunday of month 4-6 pm
GLCCC, 1245 E. Colfax, Suite 125
Denver 831-6268

Sister II Sister
Black Lesbian Support Group
Fridays 7:30 pm
GLCCC, 1245 E. Colfax, Suite 125
Denver 831-6268

Gay AA Meetings
Winning Women (1420 Ogden St.) Tuesday 7:30 pm
Live and Let Live (women)
(240 S. Broadway 2nd floor)
Thursday 7 pm

Other Gay AA Meetings
Call 322-4440 for times
Nine to Five (1420 Ogden St.)
Altered Attitudes (1420 Ogden St.)
Courage to Change (1400 Williams)

1356 Lambda Recovery Club
Noon daily, open AA meetings
Denver 1356 Downing
Kathy H. 399-3645

Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon
Every Wednesday 7 pm
Adult/Child Al-Anon
Every Friday 6:30 pm
240 S. Broadway Denver 321-8788

LEGACEY
Lesbian & Gay Association of City Employees (Denver)
2nd Thursday of month 5:30 pm
GLCCC, 1245 E. Colfax, Suite 125
Denver 831-6268

Incest/Sexual Assault Survivors Organization For Political Action
Denver Lindsey 756-6189

OUTRIGHT!
Meetings for gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning youth, ages 21 and under only
Sundays 2-5 pm
Denver GLCCC 831-6268

Young Lesbian Support Group
(Ages 18-25)
Meets Wednesdays 7-8:30 pm
GLCCC, 1245 E. Colfax, Suite 125
Denver 831-6268

LINK Les/Bi Questioning Women
Every Tuesday 5-7 pm
Call LBGCA for information
Boulder 492-8567

Lesbian Moms
Meets regularly call Sue for details
Boulder 651-0947

The Teachers' Group
Social and support group for lesbian and gay educators 1st Friday of month
Denver 455-7872

Support for Survivors of Lesbian Battering
Boulder County Safehouse.
449-8623 Veronica

Womynscircle
Support & discussion group for lesbians
Every Tuesday 7-9 pm
GLCCC, 1245 E. Colfax, Suite 125
$1 suggested donation
Denver 831-6268

Coming Out Boulder
For lesbian, gay, bisexual and unsure youth under 21 Wednesdays 7-10 pm
Ann or Keith 441-1244
For 21 and older Sundays 7:30-10 pm
444-6121

Lesbian Incest Survivors
Free peer-support groups
Lesbian-only Denver 238-8660

Lesbian Domestic Violence Support Group
GLCCC Anti-Violence Project
Denver 831-6268

Women In Recovery
Peer Support, Wholistic
Every Thurs. 7:00 pm
Denver 388-1315

Single Lesbian Mothers
(with kids 6+)
Deb 756-2613 Central, SE Denver

Lesbian/Gay Overeaters Anonymous
Mondays 6:45 pm (men & women)
Saturdays 9:30 am (women only)
Call for location Denver Monica 355-9011

Les/Bi/Gay Psychotherapy Group
D.U. Psychology Center
871-3626 sliding scale

Coming Out C.U.
Weekly drop-in discussion
UMC 423 12:30-1:45 pm
Boulder 492-6766

Aurora Lesbian & Gay Association of Educators
Open to educators from any district
Last Friday of the month
Confidential 366-1456

Always Bi Colorado
Bisexual Support Group
Mondays 7:30 pm GLCCC
1245 E. Colfax #125
Denver 831-6268

Adult Adoptees Support Group
For gay/les/bi/trans Free
Denver 266-3477

CU LesBiGay Noon Hour Series
2nd Wed. of the month Noon-1 pm
UMC 230 Boulder 492-6766

Information Line
of Boulder County
Info, Referrals, Events 441-7848

Youth Movie Night
1st Friday of the month 7-10 pm
Must be under 25 to attend
GLCCC 1245 E. Colfax, Suite 125
Denver 831-6268

SOCIAL

Rocky Mountain Career Women's Association
3rd Friday of month 7:30 pm
2180 S. University Blvd.
University Park United Methodist Church Denver 465-1208

SOL (Slightly Older Lesbians)
4th Saturday of month
Pot Luck 6:30 pm, Program 7:30 pm
Denver 399-2069

Lesbian Dining Club
Once a month, for dining and conversation Boulder 442-6899

Women's Outdoor Club
2nd Thursday of month 7 pm
Footloose 104 S. Broadway
Denver 455-3258

Colorado Business Council
Mixer 4th Thursday of month
Luncheon 2nd Thursday of month
Denver 595-8042

Lesbians Choosing Children
3rd Saturday of month Pot Luck
11:30 am Denver 795-2737

Boulder Bisexual Connection
2nd & 4th Friday of the month 5:30 pm
Walnut Cafe 3073 Walnut
Boulder Ann 440-3640

People in Medicine
9th anniversary! Seeks new lesbian & gay members, students & practitioners in any health-related field. Monthly potluck Denver Dan 355-1680

EAGLE
U S West, Employee Assoc. for Gays and Lesbians Greg 303-784-2098

Lesbian Line Dancing & 2-Stepping
Free lessons and open dancing
Sponsored by The Lesbian Connection
Every Friday 8:30-10:30 pm Smoke-free $2 donation Kakes Studios
2115 Pearl St. Boulder Sabra 666-8916

Vegetarian Group
Women & Men
Monthly potluck/dining out 355-3090

Plain's End Gaylaxians
Science Fiction/fantasy/horror fan club
David 581-0279

TLC (The Lesbian Connection)
Sponsors events, newsletter, resource phone line, dining club
Boulder 443-1105

Colo. Les/Gay Lawyers Assoc.
For lawyers and law students
Meets monthly
Write: 303 E. 16th St., #016-105
Denver 80202-5657

POLITICAL

Lesbian, Bisexual And Gay Community Alliance At C.U. (LBGCA)
Every Tuesday 7:30 pm UMC 28
Boulder 492-8567

BBOLD
(Boulder Businesses Opposing Legalized Discrimination)
Distributes "Hate Free Zone" Signs
Boulder 444-2691

La Gente Unida
Advocacy group for latina/o lesbians & gays 303-831-6086 leave message

The Denver Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD)
331-2773 for recorded message of current issues

Colo. Lesbian & Gay People of Color Coalition
Call for meeting times Denver 392-4608

BOND
(Boulder Organization for Non-Discrimination)
Education, outreach, advocacy, visibility
Boulder 444-3455

Teachers' Group Network
1st Tues. of the month 5:30 pm
GLCCC 1245 E. Colfax, Suite 125
Denver Phil 733-1650

Boycott Colorado
303-399-5445

Come Out! Colorado and Lesbian Avengers
303-399-8300

CULTURAL

Women's Poetry Reading & Story Telling
2nd Thursday of month 7:30 pm
Delafield's 430 S. Broadway
Denver 744-6774

Metaphor: A women's creative circle
A support to writers and artisans
every Sunday 11 am-2 pm
GLCCC 1245 E. Colfax, Suite 125
Fran 321-2974

Synergy Ganymede
Science fiction/fantasy/horror writer's club Brad 333-3182

Dyke TV
11 pm Thursdays PBS Channel 12
and 8:30 pm Thursdays Channel 57

The Lambda Report
10:30 pm Thurs. PBS Chan. 12

RELIGIOUS

Metropolitan Community Church Of The Rockies
Sundays 9:30 & 11am, 5 pm
Wednesdays 7 pm
980 Clarkson Street
Denver 860-1819

St. Paul's United Methodist
Sundays 11am 1615 Ogden
Denver 832-4929

Evangelicals Reconciled
Bible study & social events for lesbian &gay Christians Every Friday 7:00 pm
909 Lafayette #201 (press #2 in lobby)
Denver 331-2839

Boulder Gay/Les/Bi Concerned Catholics
443-8383

Congregation Tikvat Shalom
Jewish lesbians & gays Meets monthly
Denver 331-2706

Grant Avenue United Methodist Church
216 S. Grant St. Denver 733-1400

The Pagan Rainbow Network
A safe, nature-based spirituality circle for gay/les/bi/trans community.
3rd Sun. of the month 11 am-1 pm
GLCCC 1245 E. Colfax, Suite 125
Ring the buzzer at the N.E. corner of bldg.
Denver 377-6283

OTHER

This Way Out: International Lesbian & Gay Newsmagazine
Mondays 6:30 pm KGNU 88.5
Boulder 449-4885

Team Colorado: Gay Games IV
2nd & 4th Fridays 6:30 pm
Denver GLCCC 831-6268

Mile High Freedom Band
Mondays 6:45 pm
St. Paul's United Methodist Church
16th & Ogden Denver Leah 777-7314

Free Piercing
4th Sat. of the month 12-5 pm
Bound by Design 1336 E. Colfax
Denver 832-9741

CURRENT

CULTURAL

17th Annual Leaping Lesbian Follies
March 26 7:30 pm $13 advance, $15 at the door Tickets available now at regular outlets

Leathersex, Genderfuck, History: Interdisciplinary Exploration of Queer Identity
March 17 8 pm Denver
The Outlet 16th and California
Rethinking Sex: Situating Transgender Studies in Feminist Inquiry
Susan Stryker, writer/performer
March 17 4 pm CU Boulder UMC 425

One Tit, A Dyke and Gin
Goddess Theatre Benefit for GLCCC
April 2 8 pm $12
Guild Theater 4840 Sterling Dr.
Boulder 678-9771

OneSpirit Concert
Kay Gardner—World flutes
Nurudafina Pili Abena—World percussion $12/$14 Apr. 9 7 pm concert
2 Workshops: Apr. 10 $25/each
Community United Church of Christ
Boulder 444-1766

Mile High Freedom Band 10th Anniversary Concert
April 9 7:30 pm $10
Temple Events Center 16th & Pearl
Denver 777-7314

OTHER

MCC of the Rockies
Palm Sunday Concert Mar. 27 5 pm
Good Friday Service Apr. 1 6 pm
Easter Vigil Apr. 2 10 pm
"Women in the Bible" Class
Weds. Apr. 6-May11 6 pm
980 Clarkson Denver 860-1819

Spirituality in the Midst of Discrimination
Apr. 23 7 pm
St. Thomas Aquinas Univ. Parish
904 14th St. Boulder 443-8383

FORT COLLINS

ONGOING

Metropolitan Community Church
Sundays 6 pm St. Thomas Lutheran Chapel 805 S. Shields 221-0811

Parents And Friends Of Lesbians And Gays
3rd Thursday of month
Lory Student Center 224-8044

Bisexual Support Network
Sunday potluck once a month at 3 pm
FCGLA 491-7232

Fort Collins Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance
Every Wed. 6-7:30 pm Lory Student Center Rm 230 491-7232

Northern Colorado Alliance for Human Rights
1st Monday of month 7 pm
Westminster Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 270786, Ft. Collins, 80527

Rainbow Chorus
Every Tuesday 7 pm Jana 482-4944

Couples Activity Group
Forming for lesbians & gays 225-0774

Lambda Community Center
Newly formed G/L/B/T organization
Contact: 155 N. College Ave., Ste. 219
Fort Collins, CO 80524 303-221-3247

CURRENT

Lambda Community Center
Grand Opening: Mar. 25 7-9 pm
Open House: Mar. 26 noon-3 pm
155 N. College, Suite 219 221-3247

GREELEY

Greeley Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance
1st Thursday every month
Unitarian Church 2323 17th Ave.
351-1484

Straight But Not Narrow
4th Monday of month 7 pm
Unitarian-Universalist Church
2323 17th Ave. Joyce 351-8143

P-FLAG
3rd Monday of the month
353-0106

COLORADO

Pueblo After 2
1st Monday of month
7 pm Call for location 719-564-4004

Common Decency Coalition
Grand Junction 464-0331

Jefferson Co. Citizens For Human Rights
303-420-6939

P-FLAG
Buena Vista (Salida) 338-2461
Durango 247-2937
Evergreen 674-5014
Grand Junction 242-8965
Longmont 772-1005
Pueblo 545-7426

NATIONAL

7th Annual Texas Lesbian Conference
April 29-May 1 San Antonio
Colorado dykes welcome!
JoAnn Loulan, Linda Villarosa, Marga Gomez, 30 workshops 210-805-8398

The Virgin and the Whore

SHERRILL MORRIS

Once upon a time, before police departments and courts, people learned good and bad from stories and legends. Fairy tales foretelling the fates of lazy, greedy or mean children served as a convincing form of social control in societies without extensive formal institutions.

Although immigrants to this continent brought the stories of their homelands, they also helped create new legends, reinforcing the values and principles which were the foundation of the country. George Washington could not tell a lie; courage was the message of the Alamo; the stories of Daniel Boone and Lewis and Clark bolstered the principle of Manifest Destiny, the colonists God-given right to move west and take land from other people.

Enter a new legend. In the finest tradition of Snow White and the wicked queen, or Cinderella and her cruel stepsisters comes the Ice Princess and the Ice Monster, an Olympic version of Beauty and the Beast. Nancy Kerrigan is the heroin: beautiful, pure, gentle and kind. Tonya Harding is the evil witch: cunning, heartless, sullied and mean. Nancy does nothing but skate in her pursuit of gold. Tonya shoots pool, smokes cigarettes and drinks beer. She works on the engine of her truck, and she has failed as a wife. Actually, we know frighteningly little about Tonya's and Nancy's real personalities; the media has carefully edited their coverage to support a particular viewpoint of these two women.

The alleged crime is not the reason for the unprecedented coverage and incessant speculation about these women, although it masquerades as such. Americans care more about winning than about

moral character. Consider our treatment of male athletes convicted, let alone accused, of crimes. (Bailing Bronco Clarence Kay out of jail for domestic violence charges so he could play in an exhibition game in Japan is one of my favorites.) Despite the recent emergence of democratic justice via opinion polls, we still maintain that people are innocent until proven guilty. Tonya has been accused (as of this moment, only by the media and public opinion) of a crime, but so have half our sports heroes and politicians, so why is she being crucified?

The Virgin and the Whore are archetypes of ancient and modern women. These images of the "good girl" and the "bad girl" are central to society's control of women. We all know what makes a "good girl"; she is gentle and sweet, kind and loving, quiet and obedient. We also recognize the "bad girl" as sexual and seductive, cold and manipulative, greedy and hard. The media goes even further: Nancy is America's sweetheart, everything good about this country. Tonya is America's shame, the downfall of our society.

Continued on page 13

INJURED?

- Personal Injury
- D.U.I.
- Criminal
- Divorce
- Child in Trouble
- Wills

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Devra K. Carmichael

Attorney at Law and Registered Nurse

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3

Worthy in Her Own Right

CAROL LEASE
DIRECTOR, WOMEN'S AIDS PROJECT

In 1981 few of us who read stories in the gay press about GRID (Gay Related Immunodeficiency Disorder) thought this syndrome would become a major health problem for women in the United States, particularly for young women and those of racial and ethnic minorities. Today, although the debate continues about the specific cause of AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome), most researchers believe it is caused by infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Women Undercounted, Underserved

The health care system has not been user-friendly to women, and our experience with AIDS once again shows that the issues and needs of women have taken a back seat in this epidemic. The good news is that things are changing—the list of opportunistic infections which defines AIDS was expanded a little more than a year ago to include infections that are specific to women. This allows women to be diagnosed with HIV/AIDS sooner in the illness, so they can be eligible for treatment and financial assistance, and be counted in the epidemic. Research protocols also have opened up to the participation of women, who routinely had been excluded because of the possibility of pregnancy.

Nationally, women represent about 13 percent of all people diagnosed with AIDS, while in Colorado, women make up about 5 percent of the total. Nine percent of all HIV-positive tests in Colorado represent women. However, I believe that HIV-infected women, particularly racial minorities, are undercounted because the Colorado Department of Health (CDH) refuses to include positive tests from anonymous test sites in their statistics. The rationale that these tests may have been previously reported at other test sites appears weak. The state also says that these positive tests ultimately will be counted when these people seek medical care. What the CDH does not understand is that many of these individuals do not access medical care until they are very sick. Our experience at the Women's AIDS Project shows that after learning they are HIV-positive, women often go home, become depressed, continue or increase their use of drugs/alcohol, and deny they are ill. By the time they seek medical treatment, the benefits are minimal and their quality of life has been seriously affected.

Birth of the Women's AIDS Project

In 1987 The Empowerment Program planted the seeds for the Women's AIDS Project by developing education and prevention programs for women at risk for AIDS. The Empowerment Program, founded in 1984, provides services, advocacy and support to women who are involved in the criminal justice system. Many women who serve time in jail or prison have worked as prostitutes to support themselves, their children and/or their drug habits. In the past, and to a great extent today, prostitutes were scapegoats for the spread of AIDS. We now know that prostitution is not a major route of HIV transmission in the United States. In fact, sex workers report that they practice safer sex more often than most women. The major risk for prostitutes in acquiring HIV is through sharing needles with an infected person, or through unprotected sex with drug-using private partners. In addition, HIV appears to be more readily transmitted from men to women than from women to men.

Early services to at-risk women focused on street outreach to sex workers, women in drug treatment programs, in prison or jail, and to adolescent females involved in gang activity. In the spring of 1991, a delegation of women with AIDS asked Empowerment to form a Women's AIDS Project. They wanted "a room of their own." Today WAP serves 45 women with AIDS, 20 children and many family members. Over 100 women who have HIV infection, but do not yet have any opportunistic infection that would qualify them as AIDS-infected, are also involved in the project.

WAP provides education, prevention, intervention and direct services to women who have HIV or AIDS, or who are at risk for HIV infection. Our staff educates women through films, demonstrations, and role playing to teach refusal skills (telling a trick you won't take extra money to not use a condom, convincing your boyfriend or girlfriend to use condoms or barriers and not to share needles). We work in jails, prisons, on the street or other locations where high-risk women work or live. We provide training for health workers, educators, community organizations, schools and women's groups. Both offices of the program—1245 E. Colfax, Room 404 and 2409 W. 32nd Avenue—hold high-risk support groups.

WAP connects women with resources such as housing, medical care, child care, education, employment, substance abuse services, and entertainment. We also include families in activities. Street outreach focuses on women who currently are working the streets, using drugs, are homeless, and who are consistently arrested and jailed. The direct services to women who have HIV/AIDS focus on working with mothers who need to find adoptive parents for their children, helping them to prepare living wills and deal with issues involving death and dying, and assisting them with medical treatment.

Continued on page 14

TEAM COLORADO

Gay Games IV
June 18-25, 1994,
New York City

Team Colorado is an organized group of athletes traveling to New York City June 18-25, 1994 to compete in Gay Games IV. Team Colorado needs your support. In the upcoming months, we will be having fundraisers to help send our athletes to New York. They will be representing all of us in the Gay Games. Come to our fundraisers, have fun, and help us out.

Come join us as we meet the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the GLCCC 1245 E. Colfax Ave, Suite 125 Denver, CO

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Virgin: *Continued from page 11*

The coverage of the Tonya Harding story has another agenda. Figure skating is probably the most "feminine" sport by American standards. Figure skaters are quintessentially "feminine," putting the grace and beauty of womanhood into motion. While dedicated and achieving, they threaten nothing of society's role for "good girls." Suddenly we find a figure skater who is not obedient and quiet, who does not neatly fit into society's stereotype of the "good girl." She admits she wants to make money, that she is less than sheltered. She has a plan for her life and the audacity to make it happen. A perfect opportunity arises to teach another generation of little girls a central truth. There are two way girls can be, and if you choose the wrong one, you will be punished. If you stay within the prescribed limits, you will be loved and applauded.

The real tragedy of this entire situation is that both Nancy and Tonya are victimized by it. Nancy is not seen as her own person; rather, she is given a veil of supra-human goodness and beauty, yet she is a brilliant skater, as mentally tough as any other. She may make two million dollars from Disney, but they will keep her in bondage to the "good girl" image at the cost of her depth and real personality. Tonya will not be praised for her courage or strength. She will be the reminder of what happens when women begin to want things for their lives, things not easily given by our society, like self-determination and success. Tonya may have committed a crime; we don't know. But she does not deserve to be the sacrificial lamb bearing witness to what happens to women who step outside the lines.

It's a shame they can't be recognized as the athletes they are, without being used to illustrate the sexist agenda of one more societal fairy tale. LIC

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Tickets by phone ($1.50 per order) and information: 443-5858.

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WAP: Continued from page 12

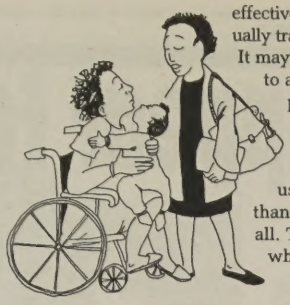
How You Can Help

WAP needs volunteers who have a little time to work with women who have HIV/AIDS. Many of the women would welcome a companion to help them get through the day. Staff members need assistance in planning and implementing picnics, trips to the movies and bowling parties. We always need help with child care. Although some of the children themselves have HIV, the majority do not, and they love to have attention. Our monthly newsletter needs help. Organizations can provide much-needed hygiene packets (toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, etc.) once a year. In the winter the women need warmer clothes, and in the summer, help with transportation to get to appointments and groups. Food for special occasions such as holidays and birthdays is always welcome. Children need toys while in childcare, and diapers are in never-ending demand.

Lesbians and AIDS

A special focus of WAP includes education and services to women who have sex with women and are not traditionally included in the mainstream lesbian community. Recent studies in San Francisco (see **LIC** December 1993) show that many women who identify as lesbian also have sex with men and do not share that information with their female sex partners. The male partners may include men who are injection drug users, and those who have had previous—or current—sex with other men. Although no cases of female-to-female transmission of HIV have yet been documented, that does not mean lesbian transmission does not occur. A current case study clearly shows that female homosexual activity can be a risk behavior for acquisition of HIV infection.

No research has been done to confirm that dental dams and plastic wrap are effective barriers to the HIV virus. However, at the 7th HIV/AIDS Update Conference in San Francisco in October 1993, lesbian physicians and researchers told participants that some research indicates that plastic wrap is *not* an



effective barrier against sexually transmitted diseases. It may seem sexy and cute to advocate the use of plastic wrap in safer sex for lesbians, but the fact is, we don't know that using it is any better than using nothing at all. The female condom, which is available at Planned Parenthood and through WAP, also has its problems. Women report that it "squeaks," and also that it may be painful for women who have a tipped uterus. It was designed for penile intercourse, but may be effective with dildoes. Even though there's much we don't know because of the lack of women-focused research, use a barrier when you have sex. The barriers of choice for lesbians are dental dams or non-lubricated condoms, which you slit open.

Call To The Mayor's Advisory Committee

Remember that many gays and lesbians use injection drugs. While statistics have not been compiled for women, 11 percent of people with AIDS in Colorado were at risk both as homosexual males *and* injection drug users. New information from the Center for Disease Control makes it clear that using bleach to disinfect your works only *decreases* the risk of HIV infection. The best way to insure your safety is to use new needles every time. Don't share your works. Buy clean needles and give them to friends if they need them. The City of Denver has yet to understand that needle exchange is simply good health policy. The Boulder needle exchange program, and others around the country, have shown that there is no increase in the use of injection drugs where needle exchange programs operate. Since the paraphernalia laws that prohibit the possession of needles for unlawful purposes comes under the jurisdiction of the Denver City Attorney's Office—that's Mayor Webb's call—perhaps the Mayor's Gay and Lesbian Advisory Committee might consider this a worthwhile topic for discussion and action.

In the United States in the past 13 years, AIDS has expanded from the confines of the gay community, hemophiliacs and transfusion recipients to women, racial minorities, injection drug users and youth. Women traditionally have been viewed as agents in spreading this disease, through our relationships to children, or through our relationships to male sex partners, especially if they are tricks who can then transmit disease to the uninformed wife or girlfriend at home. Seldom is the woman viewed as worthy of services as a person in her own right. This attitude is, unfortunately, alive and well in Colorado.

The Women's AIDS Project is housed in the office of the Empowerment Program, 1245 E. Colfax, Room 404; Denver, CO 80218 (303-863-7817). Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. WAP provides free dental dams and condoms (female condoms are on order), as well as information on women and AIDS. Financial donations should be made to "WAP" and will be used exclusively for direct services to women. **LIC**

PROTECT YOURSELF!

This is certain: Lesbians get AIDS from having sex with people who have HIV/AIDS, or by sharing needles.

1. Use barrier protection every time you have sex.
2. Plastic wrap is NOT a proven barrier to HIV.
3. In lesbian sex, use a dental dam or slit open a *non-lubricated* condom. Clip barriers to a garter belt to hold them in place.
4. Use condoms on sex toys.
5. Don't use leather sex toys—they're impossible to clean.
6. Don't share body fluids, especially during your period.
7. Don't share needles—use a clean needle every time you use.
8. Remember that a new sex partner may not disclose her past history of sex with men or injection drug use.

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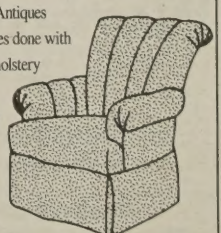

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Movie Review

Thank God I'm a Lesbian!

MARTHA WOZNIAK

Thank God, I'm a Lesbian! If you've never shared this sentiment (or hollered it from a rooftop), you may well do so after watching Laurie Colbert and Dominique Cardona's new documentary. The hour-long film features more than ten prominent women, all Canadian except for U.S. lesbian novelist Sarah Schulman and Parisian sociologist Christine Delphy. Colbert and Cardona have assembled a wonderfully diverse and articulate group of artists, writers, activists and academics, who encompass a wide spectrum of age, color and culture. The film is superbly edited by Geraldine Peroni, who was nominated for an Academy Award for *The Player.* Commentaries are intercut with interviewee's snapshots and footage of Canadian dykefests. Each participant has enough screen time so you glean a sense of who these women are.

Thank God I'm a Lesbian has been critically categorized as a documentary in the "talking heads" style (still more talking heads!), but quite frankly, how refreshing is the still image of a lone person filling the screen, speaking their clever mind, without some MTV technique of scrambled pictures and sound bites for narration. The filmmakers allow complete points to be made in complete sentences. How novel! And these women make some very thought-provoking points. The issues covered include coming out, family relations, the feminist movement, the lesbian movement and its role within the latter, racism, lesbian literature, and sexual practices.

What makes this documentary so compelling is the variety of often contradictory viewpoints it covers. These are not cronies in a bar, waxing sentimental on the joys of lesbianism. Each woman represents a very specific point in time and societal group; the only common denominator is their lesbianism. Their stories illuminate how remarkably different the lesbian experience is between—and within—each generation.

Sarah Schulman, whose commentary is exceptionally articulate, addresses the fact that there is "a suspicion among generations of lesbians." The Stonewall Generation was more isolated from popular culture, while the generation that invented the notion of Queer Nation is much more arrogant, loudly demanding to be acknowledged as gay people. Schulman suggests that fear creates the gap between us. She advises us not to invent a "cookie cutter" definition of the lesbian experience, since the experience of women coming out today is entirely different from the experience of those who came out in the 1970's. You cannot but smile when this insight is intercut with a shot of two flannel-shirted women leaning against the signpost for the town of Amazonia, followed by footage of midriff-sporting, pouty-lipped hippiechicks voguing during a Gay March.

The soundtrack is by Canadian Lee Pui Ming, a first-generation Chinese-American, who also is interviewed in the film. Her whimsical composition conjures up Snoopy doing "the pony" (this is a compliment). The background music provides an air of playfulness to the documentary, suggesting that while this may be serious stuff we're discussing, we need not take ourselves too seriously. The film won best documentary at both the Turin gay fest and the Films des Femmes festival in Creteil.

Lucky for us, the Denver showing of *Thank God I'm a Lesbian* will begin with two lesbian short films, each about 12 minutes in length. The first is *I Came Out, It Rained, I Went Back in Again*, the coming out tale of a quirky young Brit, who wakes up one day and decides to head to London to find the lesbians. Who could not relate to her kooky imaginings of what she might find? Good for a few laughs. The second is entitled *Rosebud*, which is the silent study (no script, dialogue, or narration) of a woman in the final stages of coming out to herself. You know, that moment when you first allow yourself to think about women in That Way. Both shorts make for an entertaining prelude to *Thank God I'm a Lesbian*, rounding out a rare evening of uplifting lesbian cinema.

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Lesbian Wins Battle With Elbert County

KATHY DEITSCH

Elbert County Health Nurse E. Jene Langseth was fired from her job in the spring of 1992. The reason? County Commissioner David Wright had hired a nurse he later discovered was lesbian, or as he put it, "The county's gone and hired a crazy lesbian nurse, and now we've got to get rid of her." The county suspended Langseth from her job, with pay, on March 27, 1992, and fired her twenty days later. Although the county personnel appeals board reviewed her termination and recommended Langseth's reinstatement, the commissioners chose not to rehire her. She filed a civil suit in June 1992 and won her initial legal battle against the county commissioners on January 26, 1994.

Since no law exists protecting lesbians and gays in Elbert County, Langseth's attorney, Karen Hendrick, used six other claims; breach of contract, discharge for engaging in lawful activities outside the workplace (smokers' rights), promissory estoppel (contract related), denied constitutional right to due process, denied constitutional right of equal protection, and extreme and outrageous conduct.

After ten hours of jury deliberation, following a trial of four days, jurors determined Langseth's constitutional right to due process had been violated. She was awarded $26,950 in actual damages. Hendrick filed for an additional $19,781 in court costs and attorney fees. She expects the commissioners will appeal the decision.

Trial evidence from the personnel appeals board showed that county commissioners did not notify Langseth of job performance complaints prior to her suspension. The commissioners also failed to give her the opportunity to correct any problems, as required by the county personnel handbook. Testimony at the trial showed that Langseth's work performance was exemplary. Because Langseth feared she would lose her job if her homosexuality were known, she did not "impose" her sexual orientation on the workplace.

Hendrick argued that the decision "to get rid of" Langseth was based on bias and prejudice. When Commissioner Wright learned of Langseth's sexual preference, he engaged in a continuing practice of violating Langseth's privacy, and interfering in her relationships with clients and co-workers, ultimately leading to her termination.

Langseth alleges that shortly after she was hired, Wright obtained confidential information about her and concluded she was lesbian. Langseth says Wright felt justified in gathering negative information about her because he believed "the job she held was too sensitive" for a person of her sexual persuasion.

Langseth reported several incidents of harassment during her six-month employment with Elbert County: Her dog was stolen, her vehicle vandalized, a repairman suspected tampering of the furnace in her home, neighbors reported suspicious vehicles loaded with video equipment, and her horse and dogs were poisoned. During the trial, the judge denied a motion by the county that jurors be barred from watching a television special on the threats and harassment of lesbians at Sister Spirit in Ovett, Mississippi.

Langseth and her partner sold their home and six acres of property in Elizabeth, Colorado (23 miles east of Castle Rock) in February 1993. They had lived there since June 1989. They chose to leave Elbert County and Colorado for three reasons: the passage of Amendment 2; their belief they were in physical danger; and the "outing" of Langseth by Elbert county officials. The former nurse says that David Wright has made it impossible for her to secure employment in Colorado or elsewhere: "I've been blacklisted." LIC

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Kay Gardner, recognized as a pioneer in the field of sound healing, has joined her flutes with the drums of Nurudafina Pili Abena (Nuru) to create the duo OneSpirit. Nuru is an accomplished African drummer, who also incorporates Caribbean, Persian and Indian drumming styles. Embracing a wide spectrum of world musical experience, OneSpirit celebrates the spiritual oneness of all cultures, races and people. They will be performing in concert on April 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the Community United Church of Christ in Boulder. Tickets are $12 advance, $14 at the door. On April 10 each performer will present a workshop. Nuru's is called "African Drum Rap: Developing the Medium Within," and Kay's is "Sounding the Inner Landscape: Music as Medicine." Each workshop is $25. Call Vickie Dodd at 303-444-1766 for more information. LIC

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Women's Wit and Wisdom

Throw in the Towel

ARIE SCHWARTZ

How could I have known in the beginning that she had flunked towel folding 101? And dishwasher loading, lipstick application, handwriting, and clothes hanging? Yes, clothes hanging. She hangs lefty, I hang righty. Sometimes, I get really hung up on it.

What I knew, in the beginning, was that she was charming, funny, and beautiful. Without a report card, I knew instinctively she was A+ in the bedroom. Science was never my forte but chemistry I know. Our first night together established she had earned her Ph.D.

It was *the beginning.* I was in love, and in lust, oblivious to everything around me except our strong physical attraction. One is always oblivious in the first stage. So, when several months later we entered Phase II of our relationship, it was a shock to learn she wasn't perfect. You know Phase II—when the two of you begin spending as much time upright as in prone, supine, and Olympic gold medal positions. It was then I learned she hadn't mastered the simple, elementary concept of towel folding. We were doing laundry together for the first time. (We were naked so often in the early months I wonder how we had any laundry.)

Don't ask me to describe her folding method and mine. Suffice it to say my way was right and hers wasn't. Positively. It was an alarming moment, my first glimpse at the reality of who she was—or wasn't. She wasn't perfect. I felt deceived. Relationships, Phase II, are often characterized by intense disillusion as one recognizes the flaws in the object of one's affection. Phase II does not include recognition of one's own flaws. That comes later. For some, never.

Upset but undaunted, I showed her the correct way to fold a towel. She would not follow my instructions. Thus began our first argument, which continued for about three years. She informed me, in no uncertain terms, she'd rather fight than switch. I don't recall her exact words, but I believe the phrase "shove the towels" was used and reference made to a lower body orifice.

It got worse. In no time, other imperfections began to surface. She didn't know how to load the dishwasher. She placed the forks and knives upright, where one could pierce a finger or gouge a hand while reaching for utensils. She put bowls on the bottom rack; bowls go on top. She didn't alternate ceramic mugs with plastic cups to prevent chipping. In short, she was a more dismal failure at dishwasher loading than towel folding. At least towels don't chip. Or injure you.

Then came the lipstick lecture. We were sharing our lipsticks. She applied it so that the stick became flat. I applied it in a manner that kept the stick angled. I doled out a plethora of lip about lipstick. Her response cannot be printed here. Suffice it to say reference was made to another lower body orifice.

When my hanger harangue began, she threatened to wrap one around my neck and dangle me from the nearest lamppost. I took this as a positive sign, no reference having been made to bodily openings.

I was mistaken. A few days later I constructively criticized her handwriting, suggesting she type all correspondence. She told me one more criticism, "constructive" or otherwise, might well result in a permanent loss of smell, taste and hearing. Her actual words were, "I'll box your ears in, spread your nose all over your face, and rip your damned tongue out!" Or something to that effect.

Deep down inside my scrambled brain, hidden in a tiny, heretofore little used nook called *reason,* a signal clicked on in my mind. A red flag, the kind one usually relates to IRS audits. It said, *If you love her, let it go.* It was like that voice in *Field of Dreams* that says, *If you build it, he will come.* Only mine said, *If you love her, let it go.* I thought about it long and hard, turning it upside down and inside out. I thought about it so much my brain hurt.

If you love her, let it go.

Eventually, I got it. Somehow, it all came together.

In the great scheme of life, does it matter how she loads the dishwasher, applies lipstick, hangs clothes, handwrites letters, coordinates colors, twists the phone cord, leaves the lights on, drives the car, or folds towels? Does it really matter?

This person makes me laugh, shares my secrets as well as bed, nurses me through illness, encourages me to pursue my dreams, holds my head and my hand when life knocks me around, tells me I am good, talented and worthwhile. This person would go to the mat for me. And has.

If you love her, let it go.

So, I let it go. You might say I threw in the towel.

Every now and then my stupid gene kicks in—you know, the one that puts the mouth in motion without consulting the brain—and I start one of my dissertations or tirades. But I manage to get it in check before serious damage is done.

In October, we'll celebrate our 18th anniversary. I think I'll give her a new set of towels. LIC

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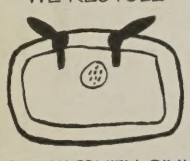

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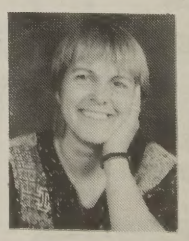
M.A.- Psychology
7 years in practice

III Eating Disorders
III Depression
III Post-traumatic stress
III Lesbian/Gay couples
Insurance accepted
443-7930 Boulder